

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Too Many Deer Damaging Forest Ecosystems, Agriculture Audubon PA Says

The over-browsing of Pennsylvania's forests and agricultural areas by too many deer in too many places has eliminated thousands of acres of habitat for birds and other wildlife, and represents the largest single threat to bird habitat, after urban sprawl, according to Timothy D. Schaeffer, Ph.D., Executive Director of [Audubon Pennsylvania](#), the state office of the National Audubon Society.

Video Blog: [Timothy Schaeffer's Comments Before Senate Committee](#)



Dr. Schaeffer made the comments before the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee at a listening session on rural and agricultural issues in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

“The impact of deer on our forest ecosystem, the crop and forest products losses, the loss of life and property from deer/car collisions and the impact on public health from the incidence of Lyme disease carried by deer have all been documented and the picture painted by these numbers is not good,” said Dr. Schaeffer.

[A study released in March](#) by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources showed fewer than 25 percent of the 41,650 forest plots they looked at across the state showed desirable forest regeneration and almost 45 percent lacked any new, woody growth.

“Here in the Lebanon area—the Conrad Weiser Forest District—the results are even worse,” Dr. Schaeffer explained. “59 percent of the 1,126 forest plots surveyed showed no forest regeneration and 28 percent showed regeneration with undesirable species.”

The DCNR study and a 2005 study by Audubon Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance show that high deer populations have greatly altered forest understories. The abundance of native wildflowers and other forest-floor plants has been greatly diminished, shrub species have been dramatically decreased or eliminated, and the variety of tree species has declined.

From a bird and wildlife resource perspective, nearly every one of Audubon's 84 Important Bird Areas in Pennsylvania have experienced significant damage caused by deer over-browsing, reducing much-needed habitat areas. These are areas of habitat critical to the survival and diversity of bird populations that must meet dozens of science-based criteria for designation.

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“In addition to habitat losses, there is an estimated \$90 million in agricultural crop loss and \$73 million in damage to our forest products every year caused by deer, according to the Department of Agriculture,” said Dr. Schaeffer. “Nurseries are losing an average of \$20,000 a year due to deer damage, and state taxpayers lose \$18 million a year in deferred and lost timber stumpage sales.”

In addition, a 2006 hearing by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee found--

- Over \$78 million in property damage occur in the over 39,000 deer/car collisions each year in Pennsylvania, not counting the deaths and injuries to the people involved, the highest of any state in the nation; and
- The incidence of Lyme disease, a debilitating and sometimes fatal illness spread by deer ticks, has increased by over 9,000 percent between 1987 and 2004, according to the Department of Health.

“Hunters will never agree on how many deer there should be in the woods, and deer certainly don’t go where hunters want them to; they go where there’s food and cover,” said Dr. Schaeffer. “Deer are having a devastating impact on forest ecosystems and many agricultural areas, and we need to continue common sense policies to stem these losses.”

Audubon Pennsylvania made several recommendations to the Committee—

- The first priority should be the restoration and maintenance of fully functional forest ecosystems, containing a full component of native biological diversity at all levels. It is the best way to serve the long-term interests of the people and wildlife of Pennsylvania.
- Policy-makers and land managers should focus on the indicators of forest health – rather than the number of deer people are seeing– to assess whether our forests are recovering.
- Until data shows Pennsylvania’s forests are recovering, it would be imprudent and irresponsible to further limit hunter effectiveness through restrictions on hunting such as shorter seasons and smaller antlerless allocations.
- Support [House Bill 550](#), sponsored by Rep. Hershey (R-Chester) and Rep. Tom Caltagirone (D-Berks), allowing the owners of farms, forestland and landscape nurseries to better protect agricultural commodities from the damage caused by deer and other wildlife and would make it easier for landowners, local governments and communities to obtain deer removal permits. Sen. McIlhinney (R-Bucks) is considering introduction of a similar bill in the Senate.
- The General Assembly, Governor’s Office and the Game Commission should identify a funding base that is more stable and equitable than funding derived almost exclusively from sources such as license dollars and timber sales on game lands in order to facilitate the shift from single-species management to ecosystem management.

[Dr. Schaeffer’s testimony is available online.](#)

For more information, visit the [Audubon Pennsylvania’s website](#) or call 717-213-6880.

Video Blog: [Timothy Schaeffer’s Comments Before Agriculture Senate Committee](#)

NewsClips: [Deer Nibble State’s Forests at Alarming Rate](#)

[Potentially Ominous Deer News](#)

[Deer Gobbling Up Forests](#)

[State Says Deere Still Damaging Forests](#)

[Op-Ed: Too Many Deer](#)

[Forest Conditions Improving, But Still Need Work](#)
[Deer Taking a Bite Out of PA Forests New Growth](#)
[Quell Storm Dairy Farmers Urge Senators](#)
[Governor Calls for Reforming Nation's Dairy Industry, Supports](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session April 16.

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

- Ned Smith Center Connects Nature, Art, People, Special Audubon Exhibit April 17

On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda/ Bills Introduced

Other News

- Lancaster Solid Waste Authority Conducts First Carbon Credit Trade
- Game Commission Recognized By Chestnut Ridge Chapter Trout Unlimited
- Volunteers to Beautify Schuylkill River Trail in Celebration of Earth Day
- PA CleanWays Wants Volunteers for Two Dauphin County Cleanups
- Chester County, Municipalities Hosting Household Haz., E-Waste Collection Event
- Managing Your Onlot Disposal System Workshop Set for April 18 in York
- Centre County Non-Profit Group Seeks Grant Applications
- Health Secretary Urges Preparedness for a Public Health Emergency
- New PA Center for Environmental Education Newsletter Online
- Scrap Metal Environmental Compliance Workshop May 3 in Wilkes-Barre
- PECO WIND Ranked In Top 10 By U.S. Department of Energy
- Woodcock Creek Nature Center Hosts Energy Saving Workshop April 11
- Keystone HELP Hosting Annual Contractor/Dealer Workshops in April
- PUC Release New Edition of Keystone Connection Newsletter
- Almost 328,000 Alternative Fuel Autos on Pennsylvania's Roads in 2006
- A Fifth Peregrine Falcon Egg Arrives at Harrisburg Nest
- Audubon/Erie Bluffs Hawk Watch Set for April 14
- Angler Surveys to Focus on Susquehanna, Juniata River Fishing
- Fish Commission Hosts Meeting on Lehigh River Fisheries April 12
- DEP Seeks Contractor for Source Water Protection Technical Assistance

Environmental Heritage

- Year-Long Centenary of Rachel Carson Kicks Off With Legacy Celebration

Feature

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- Indiana Senior Environment Corps Documents Improvements to Big Run

Opinion

- Deer Management Is Vital to Ensuring Wildlife Diversity, *By Timothy D. Schaeffer, PhD, Executive Director, Audubon Pennsylvania*
- Celebrating Our Earth and Earth Day 2007, *by Senator Rob Wonderling*

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

Video Blog

Ned Smith Center Connects Nature, Art, People, Special Audubon Exhibit April 17

The [Ned Smith Center](#) located just outside Millersburg in Dauphin County celebrates the life and work of Ned Smith, a world famous wildlife artist-illustrator who grew up in the area.

In this special [Video Blog story](#), Jerry Regan, Executive Director of the Ned Smith Center, provides an overview of the Center, its beautiful 500 acre setting and how it connects people of all ages to the arts and environment.

Scott Weidensaul, volunteer curator and member of the Ned Smith Center Board, talks about the work of Ned Smith, his inspiration and methods through examples in the Center's collection and those donated by other collectors.

A first-of-its-kind special exhibit of artwork by John James Audubon from the [Mill Grove collection](#) will be featured at the Center beginning April 17. The gallery portion of the Center will be closed until April 16 to prepare for the exhibit.

Video Blog: [Ned Smith Center Connects Nature, Art, People](#)



On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House will return to session April 16, and there is limited committee activity due to the Easter break.

House

Committees: the Consumer Affairs Committee informational meeting on water and wastewater utilities.

Senate

Committees: the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee holds another Listening Session on Issues Affecting Agriculture and Rural PA in Gallitzin.

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week, here's the rundown...

Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act: [Senate Bill 716](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) making changes to Title 66, the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, to implement a portion of Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Initiative.

Lyme Disease: [Senate Bill 722](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) creating the Lyme and Related Tick-Borne Disease Education, Prevention and Treatment Act to combat Lyme disease.

Regionalization: [House Resolution 180](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth's fragmented system of local governance and identify methods to promote more regional collaboration.

Other News

Lancaster Solid Waste Authority Conducts First Carbon Credit Trade

The [Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority](#) announced this week it has conducted the first transatlantic exchange of project-based greenhouse gas reduction credits through membership in the Chicago Climate Exchange.

Including this transaction, the Authority has sold 43,700 metric tons earning over \$174,000 from selling these credits through the CCX.

"PURE" the Clean Planet Trust, a registered charity in London, England dedicated to combating climate change through carbon offsetting requested through CCX the purchase of 7,500 emission reduction credits specifically from LCSWMA. The carbon credits will be sold for \$4.25 per metric ton for a total of \$31,875.

Jim Warner, LCSWMA Executive Director, said, "We are extremely pleased that PURE has chosen our landfill gas-to-energy project as a premium source from which to purchase carbon credits. With this transatlantic trade, our Authority continues to establish precedents within our industry."

Through donations made by individuals and businesses, PURE purchases and retires carbon emission reductions from renewable energy projects such as electricity from landfill methane, biogas or agricultural waste and wind power to offset the carbon dioxide emissions generated by the purchaser. PURE conducts transactions with legally binding emissions trading programs with standardized rules and independently verified emission reductions.

Addison Lee, London's largest private hire, chauffeur and coach company requested this specific purchase through PURE. Said Robert Rabinowitz, PhD., Company Secretary of PURE, "The Authority's emission reduction credits are considered desirable by PURE and Addison Lee because of the uniqueness of the Authority's integrated solid waste management and carbon emission reduction program, the US EPA's recognition of

their landfill gas system, and the importance and trustworthiness of a Public Authority providing reliable renewable energy services on behalf of its citizenry.”

In October 2006, LCSWMA became the first public environmental services organization in the US to become a Member of CCX, North America’s only, and the world’s first, voluntary, legally binding multi-sector market for reducing and trading greenhouse gas emissions.

As a provider of GHG emission reductions, the Authority’s landfill gas-to-energy system has destroyed over 65,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalents since the plant began operation in February 2006.

As per CCX rules, the Authority has voluntarily made a legally binding commitment to reduce its GHG emissions by 6 percent by 2010 from the greenhouse gases generated from its waste-to-energy facility and waste transfer vehicles.

In January 2007, the U.S. EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program [recognized the Authority and project partner PPL Energy Services](#) by announcing the landfill gas-to-energy system located at the Frey Farm Landfill in Manor Township as a Project of the Year Award recipient.

Game Commission Recognized By Chestnut Ridge Chapter Trout Unlimited



The Game Commission recently received the [Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited's](#) "Coldwater Conservationist of the Year Award" at its annual banquet in Uniontown, Fayette County, in recognition of the agency's partnership in helping to address acid mine discharge in local watersheds.

As a result of the partnership, national Trout Unlimited honored the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of TU, headquartered in Uniontown, with the Silver Trout Award for 2006. The Silver Trout Award recognizes nationally significant efforts by local chapters in coldwater conservation. Only one other TU chapter in the United States achieved a higher rating than Chestnut Ridge during 2006.

"The cooperation of the Pennsylvania Game Commission is a big part of the reason that Chestnut Ridge has won national recognition," said Chestnut Ridge TU president Allen Tedrow. "Without the cooperation and direct assistance of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and its land management staff in southwestern Pennsylvania, it would not have been possible for Chestnut Ridge to achieve the watershed reclamation success it has documented on Glade Run and the Dunbar Creek watershed."

Cooperation of the Game Commission was critical because three of the best possible alkaline sand treatment sites (but not the abandoned mine lands) are located on State Game Land 51. Game Commission cooperation and assistance provided Chestnut Ridge with access to the treatment sites, and occasional use of equipment and manpower.

One of Chestnut Ridge TU's most successful projects is the reclamation of Glade Run, a tributary to Dunbar Creek and the Youghiogheny River. Glade Run is a beautiful headwater stream that was seriously degraded by coal mining in the 1950s and '60s.

Watershed monitoring done by the Environmental Studies program at California University of Pennsylvania identified no fish or insect life in Glade Run before Chestnut Ridge began its reclamation efforts in 1999.

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With funds raised at its annual banquet, grants from the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation and from Growing Greener, Chestnut Ridge TU has placed more than 2,000 tons of alkaline sand at three treatment sites on the Glade Run headwaters to neutralize acid mine drainage, and constructed a permanent \$200,000 anoxic limestone drain treatment system.

California University documented spawning brook trout in Glade Run as a result of the Chestnut Ridge reclamation efforts.

Chestnut Ridge currently has other acid-mine drainage reclamation projects in progress on Morgan Run and Jonathan Run, both tributaries to the Youghiogheny River in Fayette County.

Scott Tomlinson, Game Commission Land Management Group Supervisor for Fayette and Somerset counties, accepted the award on behalf of the agency.

"Conservation starts with clean water," Tomlinson said. "It is an honor to be part of the efforts of the Chestnut Ridge Chapter. They are making a positive impact on the natural resources of their community and their state."

Volunteers to Beautify Schuylkill River Trail in Celebration of Earth Day

On April 15, about 35 volunteers will gather along the riverfront in Reading to remove trash, repair launch areas, paint benches and plant bulbs along the [Schuylkill River Trail](#).

The effort has been organized by Timberland Outlet, in Vanity Fair Outlet Center. Their plan is to beautify the area surrounding the river in time for the Canoe Flotilla that is scheduled for April 21.

"Primarily what we're doing is cleaning up along the trail and river so that when the canoes come down the area looks pretty," said Timberland Outlet Manager Denise Pietrobono.

In addition to employees, students from Reading Area Community College and about 10 boy scouts will participate, as well as members of the general public.

Beginning at 9 a.m., volunteers will congregate at the red sculpture at Riverfront Park, south of Reading Area Community College. They'll clean an area from the Bingaman Street Bridge to the Buttonwood Street Bridge. They'll also clean the Schuylkill River Trail from the RACC Bridge to Craig's Bridge, where they will pull weeds and plant bulbs.

The Schuylkill River Trail south of RACC is owned and managed by the [Schuylkill River Heritage Area](#).

"As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the support of dedicated volunteers to help maintain the trail for all users," said SRHA Trail Steward Kara Wilson. "Events like Earth Day highlight the role and importance of volunteers in managing these valuable community resources, and shine a spotlight on opportunities for people to volunteer in their communities. The participation of organizations like Timberland recognizes their commitment to the communities they operate in and supplements and enhances the work of our permanent volunteer teams who work on the trail all year round."

They plan to hold the event rain or shine, working until 3:00 p.m. painting benches, removing graffiti and picking up trash.

Anyone interested in joining the effort should meet at the red sculpture at 9 a.m. on April 15, or contact Mark or Denise at 610-375-8489.

Link: [Join In the Great PA Cleanup!](#)

PA CleanWays Wants Volunteers for Two Dauphin County Cleanups

Upper Dauphin County will be the site of several cleanup events sponsored by [PA CleanWays](#), the [Western PA Watershed Program](#) and the [Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association](#) and other sponsors.

On April 14 there will be a cleanup at Wiconisco Creek on the Isle of Q road starting at 9:00. Volunteers are to meet at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, Route 209, turn left onto Water Company Road.

This cleanup is being organized by PA CleanWays, the Western PA Watershed Program, the Boy Scouts of Lykens, Millersburg, Elizabethville and Wiconisco, Environmental Clubs of Millersburg, Upper Paxton and Upper Dauphin High Schools, Wiconisco Creek Task Force and Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association.

On April 15 there will be a cleanup in Halifax Township at the illegal dump on Tobias Road starting at 1:00. Volunteers should meet at Seiders Road and Tobias Roads.

This cleanup is being organized by PA CleanWays and the Western PA Watershed Program.

Volunteers must be 12 years old or older. There are special youth volunteer requirements for volunteers age 12-17. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Dress for safety at all times—wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, long pants and heavy-duty gloves.

For more information and to register for either cleanup, contact Michelle Dunn, PA CleanWays, 1-877-772-3673 x 37 or send email to mdunn@pacleanways.org.

Link: [Join In the Great PA Cleanup!](#)

Chester County, Municipalities Hosting Household Haz., E-Waste Collection Event

Sixty-one Chester County municipalities are hosting a [Household Hazardous Waste and Computer Collection Event](#) for Chester County residents on April 21 at the CAT Pickering, Center for Arts and Technology Campus, 1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville, PA.

The collection site will be open at 9:00 a.m and will close at 3:00 p.m. sharp.

Residents may bring as many as three old computers and peripherals and no more than 220 pounds or 25 gallons of Hazardous Products per household. Hazardous cleaning and maintenance products will have the following cautionary words on the label: poisonous, caustic, toxic, flammable, ignitable, corrosive, reactive, caution, warning, danger or hazardous.

The following items will NOT be accepted: latex paint, used motor oil, tires, asbestos, explosives, gas cylinders greater than 20 lbs, household alkaline batteries, PCBs, medical waste, unidentified waste, commercial and industrial waste, explosives, ammunition and appliances containing Freon.

Latex Paint is not a hazardous waste!

Residents should not bring latex paint to Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Solidify latex paint by either air drying small quantities or pouring the paint into a plastic trash bag with sawdust, clay-based kitty litter or rags and placing the bag and the opened can in the trash after the paint is solidified. Oil-based paint should be brought to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

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Interested residents can call their municipality or the [Chester County Solid Waste Authority](#) at 610-273-3771 ext. 228 for information on how to properly handle unacceptable materials and for the other regional collection events scheduled throughout the year.

Managing Your Onlot Disposal System Workshop Set for April 18 in York

York County residents are invited to learn about “Managing Your On-lot Disposal System” on April 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Monaghan Twp. Volunteer Fire Department located on Siddonsburg Road.

Chances are that you have chosen to live in the country because you cherish the peace and quiet, the wide open spaces, and the beauty of nature. However, with this enjoyment and independence often comes responsibility.

Most drinking water supply and sewage disposal in rural areas of York County is done on-lot. As a property owner, you are responsible for maintaining your drinking water well and septic systems.

Understanding how they are built, work and how to keep them operating effectively and efficiently is good for your family’s health, your household budget, and the environment. Replacing these systems can be expensive.

Homeowners will have the opportunity to get basic information about septic system design, location and construction; get expert advice on how to properly operate and maintain them; and learn about whom to call for help with a failing septic system. Bring your questions for our expert panel to answer.

The York County Conservation District sponsors these programs spring and fall each year featuring leading local experts including Brad Hengst, York County Sewerage Enforcement Officer, Dr. Tom McCarty, Penn State University Cooperative Extension Service, Tony Williams, retired and former owner of Young’s Sanitary Septic Services, Inc.

Funding is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and Department of Environmental Protection’s Chesapeake Bay Program.

The program is free to York County residents. Seating is limited to 50. Registration is requested by April 13. Free information packet given to all participants. Dress casual. Light refreshments will be served.

To register, contact the York County Conservation District at 717-840-7430 or e-mail yorkccd@yorkccd.org .

Link: [PowerPoint Presentation, Booklet on Proper Onlot Management Available](#)

Centre County Foundation Seeks Grant Applications

[Altrusa International of Centre County](#) will be accepting grant applications from Centre County non-profit organizations for projects in the areas of Literacy, Children & Youth, Women's Issues, and the Environment.

This year's application deadline is April 27.

According to Tillie Convery, one of the lead Mystery Night volunteers, "This is what it is all about, giving back."

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Last year's grant recipients included: Centre County Youth Service Bureau, Family Health Council of Central PA, Centre County Library and Historical Museum, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, Global Connections, SCASD Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) Program, ClearWater Conservancy, and PA Centre Chamber Orchestra Society.

For additional guidelines and an application, please visit the [Altrusa website](#).

Health Secretary Urges Preparedness for a Public Health Emergency

The Department of Health this week today kicked off National Public Health Week and urged Pennsylvanians to better educate themselves to prepare for any type of public health emergency – from a natural disaster to an outbreak of disease.

Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson also unveiled new [public health preparedness initiatives](#): an updated version of the Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide; and the State Emergency [Registry of Volunteers in Pennsylvania](#) (SERVPA), a new web-based tool for the advanced registration of emergency volunteers statewide.

“Now is the time to start thinking about what you, your family and your community would do during a public health emergency or any disaster,” Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson said while launching the campaign at a Preparedness Expo here. “Preparation is especially important for people with special needs, mothers with small children, schools and older Pennsylvanians.

“Preparation begins just by assembling an emergency kit, making an emergency plan and staying informed.”

For more information, visit the [Public Health Preparedness](#) and [Volunteer Registry](#) webpages.

NewsClip: [Health Department Unveils Online Volunteer Registry](#)

New PA Center for Environmental Education Newsletter Online



The [April issue of EE Connections newsletter](#) from the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online. The highlights from this month's issue include—

General News: The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup!, Rachel Carson Centennial, Outdoor Heritage Week, Rachel Carson Online Book Club, 18Seconds, Step It Up 2007, Farm Energy Online, Learning for Sustainability

K-12 News: An Invitation to Pennsylvania Schools, National Environmental Education Week, Student Action Network, Excellence in Estuaries Education Needs Assessment

Higher Education: Regional Science Consortium Courses, Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility, Campus Sustainability News

Professional Development: Women's Health and the Environment Conference, Field Seminars Offered, Exploring Watersheds Workshop, UPMC Healthy Living Lecture Series, Environmental Law Forum 2007, LEED for Existing Buildings Technical Review,

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Business Strategies in a Carbon-Constrained World, Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, Climate Change E-conference

Grants/Awards: Pennsylvania Waste Watcher Awards, Pennsylvania CleanWays Scholarship, Ralph W. Abele College Scholarships, Environmental Excellence Awards, Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

Join the 11,300 people that receives EE Connections directly by email. To get your own copy, send an email to: info@pcee.org or visit the [EE Connections sign-up webpage](#)

Scrap Metal Environmental Compliance Workshop May 3 in Wilkes-Barre

The PA Small Business Development Centers and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. is sponsoring a free workshop on environmental compliance for automotive and scrap metal recyclers.

The workshop will be held May 3 in Wilkes-Barre from 5:15 to 9:00 p.m.

For more information or to register, contact Alison McKeachie by sending email to: alm306@Lehigh.EDU.

PECO WIND Ranked In Top 10 By U.S. Department of Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory this week announced that [PECO WIND](#) is once again one of the nation's top ten green power programs for enrollment.

The announcement is part of the DOE's annual ranking of leading utility green power programs.

"There are more than 600 utilities in the United States offering their customers electricity generated from wind or solar energy, and being named to the top ten is a great honor," said Denis O'Brien, president of PECO. "PECO WIND is not just the Delaware Valley's flagship green energy program, it is an award winning initiative that continues to make a difference to our environment each and every day."

More than 34,000 customers have chosen to purchase PECO WIND, placing it fifth on the DOE's list, last year PECO WIND was ranked seventh. Since its launch in May 2004, PECO WIND has become the fastest growing green power program in the country.

The environmental benefit is the same as planting about 11 million trees or not driving 145 million miles. Provided through a partnership with wind energy marketer and developer Community Energy, Inc., PECO WIND is a clean, environmentally-friendly wind power option for customers.

"We are proud of the success the PECO WIND program has enjoyed – this achievement is a tribute to all of our dedicated customers. PECO WIND customers are building a clean energy future that creates jobs and a healthy environment for the Delaware Valley and all Pennsylvanians," said Brent Alderfer, president of Community Energy, Inc., PECO's wind energy supply partner.



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The first wind energy product offered by a utility in Pennsylvania, PECO WIND is available to PECO's residential and business customers in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia and York counties and is supplied by a new wind power facility in Waymart, PA, near the Poconos.

PECO WIND is offered to residential customers in 100-kilowatt hour (kWh) blocks for an additional monthly fee of about \$2.54 per block, added directly to customers' monthly PECO bill.

For more information about PECO WIND or to sign up, customers can call 1-866-WIND-321, or visit the [PECO Wind webpage](#).

Woodcock Creek Nature Center Hosts Energy Saving Workshop April 11

Worried about skyrocketing utility costs? Did you know that improving your home's energy efficiency is one of the primary ways you can cut your greenhouse gas emissions?

Learn how to cut your utility bills by changing how you operate your home, and which energy improvements yield the biggest savings for homes in northwest Pennsylvania by attending an April 11 workshop at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodcock Creek Nature Center in Meadville.

The workshop is being presented by [Commonwealth Community Energy Project](#), a project of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

See why replacement windows may not be the best solution to high utility bills. Find out about home energy ratings and what they can teach you about improving your home's efficiency, comfort, and safety.

After the presentation, see the results of an Energy Rating on Crawford County Conservation District's office.

The workshop is free, however pre-registration is required. To register for the workshop call the Woodcock Creek Nature Center at 814-763-5269 by April 10.

Keystone HELP Hosting Annual Contractor/Dealer Workshops in April

The [Keystone Home Energy Loan Program](#) (HELP) is hosting its annual contractor/dealer update and sales training seminar in five cities across the state during April.

Keystone HELP is Pennsylvania's official ENERGY STAR /High Efficiency Loan Program. Under the program, Allentown-based AFC First Financial provides unsecured, low-interest rate loans to homeowners of all income levels.

The loan proceeds can be used for high-efficiency heating and cooling systems; renewable energy generation equipment, including solar, wind and geothermal; and high-efficiency windows, doors and insulation; and other qualifying uses.

The low interest rates are subsidized by the Pennsylvania Department of Treasury, the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, the Department of Community and Economic Development and electric utility companies.

In the first year of the program, over 1000 Pennsylvania homeowners installed high efficiency home improvements using the Keystone HELP monthly payment plan. The loans are only available for work performed by Keystone HELP-approved contractors and for purchases through HELP-approved equipment dealers.

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The contractor/dealer update and sales training seminars are intended for employees and owners of existing approved contractors and for contractors and dealers who want to learn how you can get involved in this beneficial program.

Seminars will be presented in the following communities:

- Altoona, April 13, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Ramada Altoona;
- Allentown/Reading, April 17, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., TekPark Breinigsville;
- Erie, April 18, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., The Avalon;
- Pittsburgh, April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Holiday Inn Airport; and
- Valley Forge, April 24, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Radisson Valley Forge.

To register or get more information, call 610-433-7486 or go online to the [Keystone Home Energy Loan Program webpage](#).

PUC Release New Edition of Keystone Connection Newsletter

The Public Utility Commission this week released the winter/spring edition of the [Keystone Connection report](#) to provide the public with an update on the PUC's efforts to provide beneficial information to the public about important developments in the electric, natural gas, transportation, telecommunications and water markets.

The publication's format contains coverage of all utilities under the PUC's jurisdiction, including news on consumer issues and general information on Commission happenings.

[A copy of Keystone Connection is available online.](#)

Almost 328,000 Alternative Fuel Autos on Pennsylvania's Roads in 2006

The R.L. Polk and Co. figures show almost 328,000 hybrid electric, ethanol-capable E-85 and clean diesel autos on Pennsylvania's roads in 2006, marking an increase of 16 percent from 2005 when there were almost 282,000.

Pennsylvania ranks eighth in the nation in terms of total number of Alternative Fuel Autos on the state's roads.

The Polk sales figures also reveal that on a national level an unprecedented 1.5 million Alternative Fuel Autos were sold in 2006, surpassing automakers' sales expectations by 50 percent. The 2006 sales bring the total number of Alternative Fuel Autos on the nation's roads to 10.5 million.

Currently manufacturers are offering 60 models of [Alternative Fuel Automobiles](#) for sale including hybrid electric, ethanol-capable E-85, and clean diesel, up from just 12 models for sale in 2000.

A Fifth Peregrine Falcon Egg Arrives at Harrisburg Nest

For only the second time, the pair of Peregrine falcons nesting on the 15th floor ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in downtown Harrisburg has produce five eggs.

If the female is consistent with last year, this is the full clutch.

Since 2000, falcons at this nest have produced 34



eggs. To date, nine males and eight females have survived.

Brooding will be continuous for the next five weeks, after which the first egg should begin to hatch. The young falcons should begin to fledge, or take their first flights, in early June.

To view a live video stream of the falcons, visit's DEP's [Falcon webpage](#).

Link: [Pittsburgh Peregrine Falcon Nest-Cam](#)

Audubon/Erie Bluffs Hawk Watch Set for April 14

Imagine watching a black dot on the horizon materialize into a majestic hawk or eagle right before your eyes! This is Hawk Watch—a free family event sponsored by [Presque Isle Audubon](#) and [Erie Bluffs State Park](#).

Come to watch the raptors migrating north over the park, get up close to live birds of prey from [Tamarack Wildlife Rehab Center](#), take a walk along the bluff and old forest trails, or participate in children's games and activities.

Meet at the Route 5 access of Erie Bluffs State Park. Kickoff is at 9 a.m., but come anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Experts with binoculars and spotting scopes will be on hand to identify hawks and other migrating birds. Raptors typically found in this area include: Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk and American Kestrel.

There are also migrating birds in the area, including: bluebirds, phoebes, red winged blackbirds, flickers, goldfinches, swallows, kingfishers, sparrows, waterfowl, etc.

For more information, contact: Susan A. Smith 814-835-8069, ext.102 or send email to: ssmith@lea.earthforce.org .



Angler Surveys to Focus on Susquehanna, Juniata River Fishing

The Fish and Boat Commission is launching a large-scale angler survey effort that will explore fishing use and anglers' experiences on 130 miles of the Susquehanna and Juniata rivers.

The survey is designed to measure catch, harvest, economic expenditures and angler opinions associated with fishing on sections of the two rivers for the period April through October. The Susquehanna River survey reach will extend from Sunbury to the Holtwood Dam near the Maryland border. The survey reach on the Juniata River will extend from Port Royal to the mouth near Duncannon.

For the river surveys, the PFBC is partnering with the Penn State Statistical Consulting Center and the Penn State Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit as well as a professional economist from Colorado State University.

Ten creel clerks, who will interview anglers on each survey day at access areas using a statistically structured sampling design, will collect the data for the survey.

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In visiting access areas, clerks will ask about their fish catch and the amount of time spent fishing. Creel clerks will also ask how much anglers spend on travel (gasoline), fishing tackle, and other gear such as bait.

Finally, anglers will be asked about their satisfaction associated with fishing and their feelings about public and private access on these rivers. In addition to these on-the-water interviews, airplane flyovers will be conducted three times each week to count anglers and boaters who use the river.

"This is a large scale effort to get important information on what is widely considered to be one of the best riverine fisheries in the nation. The results of the survey will provide valuable information that can then be used in setting the management directions [for species](#) such as smallmouth bass, catfish, walleye, carp, rock bass, and American shad," said PFBC Executive Director Dr. Doug Austen.

A second study that will be done in conjunction with the creel survey is a smallmouth bass angling mortality study. This study will be designed to estimate what proportion of the [smallmouth bass](#) population dies as the result of fishing. The study will involve tagging a large number of fish.

The tags will resemble an orange strand of "plastic spaghetti" located on the fish's stomach area. The tag strand contains a tag number, and a toll free number to report the tags. Some tags will contain reward amounts that are printed on the tag.

Tag information must be reported by December 31, in order for rewards to be given. It is not necessary to harvest fish to report the tags.

The tags simply need to be removed. Anglers can release tagged bass unharmed if they so desire. This study will begin later this spring and the agency will provide additional information at that time.

This is the [second large-scale river angler survey](#) the PFBC has undertaken in the past decade. In 2002, Pennsylvania partnered with the neighboring states of New Jersey, New York, and Delaware to measure catch and harvest of all fish species on the Delaware River and Delaware Estuary. That survey revealed significant recreational activity on that river.

The Delaware River survey documented that approximately 120,000 angling trips occurred on the tidal and non-tidal portions of that river combined from March 17 through October.

Fish Commission Hosts Meeting on Lehigh River Fisheries April 12

The Fish and Boat Commission will host a public information meeting on fisheries management for the [Lehigh River](#) on April 12 from 7-9 p.m. at Lehighon High School.

The PFBC will present an update on the development of a fisheries management plan for the river, with a special emphasis on the portion of the river from FE Walter Reservoir to the mouth. The plan will be a "living document" that will be modified as needed and regularly updated on a five-year basis.

At the meeting, the public will be given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the plan development and contribute to it through comments. Among the items being considered is the potential for special fishing regulations in the area of the river immediately downstream of the dam.

For those unable to attend the meeting and offer oral comment, written comments will be accepted when the draft document is published.

The meeting site is located at 1 Indian Lane in Lehighton.
For more information, visit the [Lehigh River Guide online](#).

DEP Seeks Contractor for Source Water Protection Technical Assistance

DEP invites potential contractors [to submit proposals](#) to provide technical assistance to community water systems across the state for the development of voluntary local source water protection programs.

Local source water protection efforts protect public health and safety by preventing costly drinking water contamination. Source water protection programs may involve wellhead protection efforts for ground-water sources (wells and springs), watershed protection efforts for surface-water sources (intakes on streams, rivers and reservoirs) or both approaches if a system has both ground-water and surface-water sources.

Instructions and requirements on submitting proposals can be found in the [Request for Proposals webpage](#).

All proposals must be received by DEP's Bureau of Office Services on or before 2 p.m., April 27. A pre-proposal conference will be held at 1:30 p.m., April 19 in the 2nd Floor Auditorium of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg. Since facilities are limited, attendance will be restricted to no more than two individuals per interested firm.

All inquiries about the RFP must be directed to John Stefanko, chief, Division of Contracts, Procurement and Bonding, Bureau of Office Services, Department of Environmental Protection, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, P.O. Box 8473, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8473, send e-mail to: jstefanko@state.pa.us.

Environmental Heritage

Year-Long Centenary of Rachel Carson Kicks Off With Legacy Celebration

The first of four events organized by the [Rachel Carson Homestead Association](#) during the Centennial of Allegheny native Rachel Carson's birth is the Rachel Carson Legacy Celebration.

The April 20 event will be hosted by Teresa Heinz with special guests, the Indigo Girls. The evening event, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Senator John Heinz History Center, will introduce the Rachel Carson Legacy Challenge: green steps to a sustainable future.

Created by the RCHA, this initiative challenges industry, government, institutions and individuals to commit to permanent and measurable change in line with Carson's environmental ethic: live in harmony with nature; preserve and learn from natural places; minimize the impact of man-made chemicals on natural systems of the world; and consider the implications of human actions on the global web of life.

"Rachel Carson moved the environment community from passive observers of nature to passionate activists on its behalf. She made the connection between people and



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their effect on the health of the environment we are part of,” said Patricia M. DeMarco, Ph.D., RCHA Executive Director. “The Rachel Carson Legacy Challenge: green steps to a sustainable future asks everyone to take action now toward a more sustainable world.”

Commitments to the Rachel Carson Legacy Challenge are rooted in environmental sustainability. Examples include conserving energy resources, using organic products, avoiding use of dangerous chemicals, and reducing fossil fuel consumption.

The first round of commitments to the Rachel Carson Homestead initiative will be recognized at the April 20 celebration and include Alcoa Tech Center, Allegheny County, Carnegie Mellon University, Carnegie Science Center, Chatham College, City of Pittsburgh, Highmark, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 95, Parkhurst Dining Services, Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, Pittsburgh 250/Allegheny Conference, Pittsburgh Public Schools, PPG Industries, Sustainable Pittsburgh, UPMC, United Steelworkers

The Rachel Carson Legacy Celebration will include a special announcement by Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, Department of Environmental Protection, as well as readings from all five of Rachel Carson’s books.

Tickets for the event are \$50 per person (hors d’oeuvres and cash bar) and can be obtained through the [Rachel Carson Homestead website](#) .

In addition, the Rachel Carson Legacy Challenge: green steps to a sustainable future is detailed on the website; links to resources for information on reducing one’s ecological footprint are available; and individuals can make their own commitments online.

The evening event will follow the 11th annual Women’s Health & Environment conference “New Science, New Solutions,” which will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center – sponsored by The Heinz Endowments and Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC.

The RCHA is organizing four events throughout 2007 that will highlight the environmental legacy of Rachel Carson - Allegheny County native, scientist and author – as well as southwestern Pennsylvania’s growing leadership in environmental and conservation initiatives.

Carson was born and spent almost half her life in Springdale, Pa. where she developed her love for nature. She wrote several books including *Silent Spring*, in which she warned about the dangers to the environment and human health through the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides, and a trilogy of books on the ocean, illustrating Carson’s enduring love of the sea and desire for mankind’s deeper understanding of and conservation for all the planet’s natural resources.

The three additional events organized by the RCHA are:

- **May 27 – Springdale.** A birthday block-party at the Rachel Carson Homestead, her birthplace and home for 22 years where she first developed her love for nature, in Springdale, PA. Honored guests, entertainment, conservation groups and eco-friendly vendors, and Rachel’s Sustainable Feast: leading Pittsburgh chefs showcasing locally grown produce from farms practicing sustainable agriculture.
- **September 29 – Pittsburgh** First of annual Rachel Carson Legacy Conferences: “Sustaining the Web of Life in Modern Society” at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA: Keynote is Professor E. O. Wilson. Sessions include: Global Warming; Perspectives on Health of Our Oceans; Environmental Leadership & Changing the Way We Live.

- **November 3 – Pittsburgh Spirit & Nature Conference.** Multi-faith gathering to discuss the reverence for nature contained in all religions and spiritual movements and how followers of faith can reconnect to that theme and renew the sense of earth stewardship through sustainable purchasing and living plans, conservation efforts and green building in places of worship, religious communities and in our daily lives.

Born and raised in Springdale, Pa., Carson was recognized by TIME magazine as one of the most influential people of the 20th century and recently voted by the United Kingdom’s Environment Agency as number one out of the top 100 people in all time who had done the most to save the planet.

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association was formed in 1975 to preserve and restore this National Register historic site and to offer education programs and resources that advance Rachel Carson's environmental ethic. The Rachel Carson Homestead is the only site in the world that is dedicated to interpreting Rachel Carson's entire legacy to the public.

For more information, visit the [Rachel Carson Homestead website](#).

Feature

Indiana Senior Environment Corps Documents Improvements to Big Run

The Indiana County Chapter of the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#) collects water quality data on local streams and partners with various watershed groups and county agencies concerning environmental issues.

Some of these agencies and groups include the Indiana County Soil Conservation District, local watershed organizations, Trout Unlimited, Pa. Game Commission, Indiana County Planning Commission, county commissioners, Homer City Historical Society, Evergreen Conservancy, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Indiana County League of Women Voters and the K-C Stream Team.



The group publishes a monthly newsletter and holds meetings for its own corps, which also act as a forum for watershed groups in the county where they can learn about and exchange information on various activities that are taking place.

The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps volunteers have been monitoring Big Run with Stream Team since 1999, and started monitoring with kits in 2004. Big Run is located in Conemaugh Township in southern Indiana County, and is a tributary to the Blacklegs Creek.

According to Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards, Blacklegs Creek (basin), and thus Big Run, is designated as a cold-water fishery. Big Run is listed on the 2006 Integrated Water Body list, as a Category 5 water body with pollutants requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Abandoned mine drainage impairs Big Run for metals and pH.

Data collected by the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps in the Blacklegs Creek Watershed has been used to supplement historical data for the area to assist grant

writing efforts to obtain funds for remediation projects, as well as to assist the engineering design of AMD treatment systems.

The Blacklegs Creek Watershed Association has been involved in several AMD treatment systems along Big Run (named Big Run #2, #7 and #8), and the watershed association has requested that the corps continue the monthly water monitoring at a site downstream of the projects. This downstream site is referred to as “Big Run #10,” and the intent of monitoring here is to assess the efficacy of the upstream treatment systems.

Due to the presence of acid mine drainage impacts, the corps is monitoring a different set of parameters than is normally used in the program. These parameters include: air and water temperature, pH, conductivity, alkalinity, sulfates, aluminum, total iron, ferrous iron, manganese, total acidity and flow rate.

The corps has been monitoring this site since September 2004; additional parameters related to acid mine drainage impacts have been monitored since February 2006.

A review of the data that has been collected thus far indicates that the pH in Big Run may be gradually increasing. By 2006, the pH values appear to be falling within a more acceptable range. Chapter 93 water quality standards state that streams designated as cold water fisheries require a pH range between 6.0-9.0.

According to the group’s data, pH values fell below the water quality standards from 2004 until early 2006.

In January 2006, the pH met the standard although values continued to vary above and below the standard after that time. Data shows that from September 2004 through August 2005, the pH values ranged from 3.3 to 5.6 with a median pH value of 4.35. Data from January 2006 through November 2006 ranged from 4.5 to 6.9 with a median pH value of 5.7.

Big Run #2 was made operational in 2006. Big Run #7 and Big Run #8 projects are still underway. Big Run #7 is expected to be finished in 2007 and Big Run #8 in 2008. Although the pH appears to be increasing gradually, additional monitoring will be needed to verify that this trend holds true.

The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps has monitored total iron and ferrous iron since 2004 and both parameters show a decreasing trend since early 2006. Due to the short period of time over which this monitoring has been taking place, additional monitoring will be needed to verify that the observed trend holds true.

Deep mine discharges from each of the Big Run sites are sent through a limestone treatment area. The limestone is intended to increase the pH causing the iron (and other metals) to settle out. Higher pH values can be seen to correlate with lower iron levels at Big Run #10 downstream of the treatment systems.

So far, the Big Run #2 Treatment site has reduced iron approximately by 1.8 tons per year and approximately 7 tons of aluminum per year.

Visit the
[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Opinion

Deer Management Is Vital to Ensuring Wildlife Diversity

By
Timothy D. Schaeffer, PhD
Executive Director
Audubon Pennsylvania

Two state officials have demonstrated courage and leadership in standing up for the long-term interests of all wildlife and all Pennsylvanians. At the same time, two new reports suggest the ongoing challenges of managing white-tailed deer in a state in which a century of overabundant deer has left our forests in disrepair and unable to regenerate the very vegetation upon which deer and other wildlife rely.



[In testimony before the House Game and Fisheries Committee](#) last month, Carl Roe, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, showed resolve and commitment to fulfilling the commission's mission to conserve all birds and wildlife -- including game and nongame species -- by adhering to the seven-year-old attempt to bring deer into balance with their habitat. Roe stood up to angry legislators who were concerned about the number of deer the hunters in their districts reported seeing and said the commission has yet to achieve its deer management goals.

Audubon Pennsylvania applauds Roe and the commission for maintaining their focus on measuring and improving the habitats that deer and other wildlife need to survive, maintaining the health of the deer and reducing deer-human conflicts such as crop damage, car accidents and Lyme disease.

The week before Roe's testimony in Harrisburg, I was pleased to join Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester) on a snowy morning in Chester County as he also took a stand for better deer management.

Rep. Hershey was there to announce the introduction of [House Bill 550](#) (co-sponsored by Rep. Caltagirone-D-Berks), which would expand the tools available to farmers, landowners and communities who continue to struggle with negative deer issues. Nurseries like the one we visited that day are losing an average of \$20,000 a year to deer damage while the surrounding communities struggle with Lyme disease and other problems.

Rep. Hershey's bill would also expand the availability of deer removal permits to include more communities and municipalities. This would be an important tool for suburban and urban communities struggling with managing deer in complex and difficult settings.

To those who would suggest there are no deer left in Pennsylvania, the evidence suggests otherwise.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently released a report on the [impact of deer browsing on woody trees and shrubs](#) in the state forest system and the ability of those species to regenerate. The report found 24 percent of study plots with

desirable regeneration and 44 percent with no woody regeneration. According to the study, this "indicate[s] that browsing has not been down long enough for a widespread regeneration response."

Pennsylvania has global stewardship responsibility for a number of forest species. Seventeen percent of the worldwide population of scarlet tanagers nest in Pennsylvania, and nearly 10 percent of the world's wood thrushes nest here. DCNR's data on its own forests shows that the habitats upon which these birds depend have not been given a chance to recover after years of overbrowsing by deer.

Deer managers typically need to have hunters harvest at least 30 percent of the female deer to stabilize a population and more to reduce it. Preliminary results of a multiyear study by the Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State University on female white-tailed deer survival would indicate that the deer many hunters claiming are not in the woods are really just avoiding those same hunters.

The study on over 250 deer in the big woods of north-central Pennsylvania and ridge and valley region of south-central Pennsylvania indicate that survival rates for the year exceed 80 percent. Among the deer in the study, hunters have failed to remove even 15 percent of the population.

This raises serious concern about whether hunters under the current program can manage the herd in these large forested tracts, which include important bird areas and some of the states most significant natural areas.

As a conservationist, I feel it is my responsibility to help maintain a natural balance between deer and the rest of our forest ecosystems. I derive a lot of personal satisfaction and feel closer to the land as a result of the time I spend deer hunting. As a hunter, I have experienced the need to adapt my hunting methods and work harder to find deer. Last year, I harvested three antlerless deer in as many counties in habitats ranging from suburbia to the big woods.

The current effort by the Game Commission to balance deer with their habitat has forced hunters to work harder to find deer, and the flora, fauna and people of Pennsylvania will be better for it. However, the state's own data suggest that we have a long way to go.

Timothy D. Schaeffer, PhD, is Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania, a state office of the National Audubon Society. He can be contacted at 717-213-6880 x20 or by sending email to: tschaeffer@audubon.org. More information on the deer management issue is available at the [Managing White-Tailed Deer in Pennsylvania webpage](#).

Video Blog: [Timothy Schaeffer's Comments Before Agriculture Senate Committee](#)

NewsClips: [Deer Nibble State's Forests at Alarming Rate](#)

[Potentially Ominous Deer News](#)

[Deer Gobbling Up Forests](#)

[State Says Deere Still Damaging Forests](#)

[Op-Ed: Too Many Deer](#)

[Forest Conditions Improving, But Still Need Work](#)

[Deer Taking a Bite Out of PA Forests New Growth](#)

Opinion

Celebrating Our Earth and Earth Day 2007

by
Senator Rob Wonderling

On April 22, 1970, over 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. In 1970, many of our cities were filled with smog and some of our rivers were so polluted they literally caught on fire.

We've come a long way since then. Today, Earth Day is celebrated around the world and our nation has made significant progress cleaning up our rivers, lakes, and streams. Yet there is still much work to do. I believe that water quality and water supply issues will likely be the greatest environmental challenge we face this century.

Today's threats to our water come from so-called non-point source pollution, such as when we use too much fertilizer on our lawn and it washes into a stream or when the oil residue in a parking lot washes into storm drains during a rainfall. Approximately 40 percent of our surveyed rivers, lakes, and estuaries are not clean enough to meet basic uses such as fishing or swimming due to non-point source pollution.

Through the combined efforts of federal, state, and local governments, grassroots environmental organizations, industry, and citizens, efforts are underway to further improve our waterways.

As your state Senator, I have supported numerous measures to help protect our environment, including supporting Growing Greener II, which provides \$625 million over 6 years for a variety of environmental and conservation projects. Specifically, the measure provides \$230 million to the state Department of the Environment for watershed protection, mine reclamation, and brownfields cleanup. I also introduced legislation to reform the Commonwealth's 66 conservation districts. The measure proposes to better coordinate efforts between districts and assists environmental organizations with watershed and conservation efforts.

Several open space projects awarded in my district include \$270,000 for the Montgomery County Lands Trust to conserve 46 acres adjacent to White's Mill Park in Salford Township, \$337,500 for Springfield Township to acquire 108 acres along Haycock Creek, \$400,000 for Williams Township to conserve 73 acres off of Hexenhopf Road, and \$258,500 for Lehigh County to purchase the Bethlehem Water Authority property in Salisbury Township. I have also provided financial assistance to several local watershed organizations and municipalities for clean water programs, including the Cooks Creek Watershed Association, Unami Watershed Conservancy, and Nockamixon Township for storm water improvement, to name a few. In total, as your public servant, I have facilitated more than \$110,000 of your tax dollars for watershed improvement projects since 2003.

In the 24th Senatorial district, which I represent there are numerous environmental organizations working to save our watersheds. Some of these organizations are: the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, the Cooks Creek Watershed, The Gallows Run



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Watershed Association, and the Wildlands Conservancy. Many of these organizations are conducting environmental clean-up activities in April in honor of Earth Day. Below are some of the events taking place in our communities. I encourage you to contact your local watershed association or environmental group to find out about upcoming events and join the fun!

Bushkill Stream Conservancy - encompasses 80 square miles of Northampton County, stretching from Blue Mountain to the Delaware River in Easton. For information about events in your neighborhood, visit www.bushkill.org.

Cooks Creek Watershed Association - is a 30-square-mile limestone valley watershed in northern Bucks County. They are holding a watershed-wide cleanup on April 14th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. starting at the Springtown Firehouse. Their Annual Meeting is set for April 21, 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m., at Laughing Springs Forest Community in Springtown. They will also be doing two Earth Day presentations on water quality / quantity at the Palisades High School on April 25th and Palisades Middle School on April 16th. Check out their website at www.cookscreekpa.org for details.

Gallows Run Watershed Association (GRWA) encompasses most of Nockamixon and some of Durham and Springfield Townships in Bucks County. They will host a Stream Cleanup of the Gallows Run on Saturday, April 28th as part of Nockamixon's Earth Day activities. Volunteers are welcome to meet on the base of Ealer Hill Road and Old Easton Highway at 9:00 a.m. Visit their web site at www.grwabucks.org for additional information.

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy is a nonprofit organization founded in 1964 by local citizens to combat pollution in the Perkiomen Creek and its tributaries. The watershed encompasses 362 square miles and 57 municipalities in Berks, Bucks, Lehigh and Montgomery counties and includes the major sub-watersheds of the Upper and Lower Perkiomen, East Branch, Skippack, Unami, and Swamp Creeks. Join them on April 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the Perkiomen Watershed Annual Stream Clean-Up. Or join the Lenape Survival Challenge on April 28 for a mini-triathlon that explores Spring Mountain and includes a canoe trek on the Perkie! For additional information, visit their web site at www.perkiomenwatershed.org.

Wildlands Conservancy: A non-profit member-supported organization dedicated to protect the Lehigh River watershed since 1973. (This includes the Alliance for the Little Lehigh Watershed). On May 4th, 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th they are having a Spring Native Plant Sale and on June 22nd thru the 27th join in on the Lehigh River Sojourn. For more details, visit www.wildlandspa.org.

My family and I live in the Perkiomen watershed. We spend many days and evenings enjoying the trails and fishing in the creeks in our neighborhood. Taking care of our environment is everyone's responsibility. I believe as people learn how even small, individual actions add up to big environmental consequences they will become an active partner in our effort to leave Pennsylvania's waters purer than they were when we arrived.

Sen. Rob Wonderling has served in the Senate since 2002 and represents parts of Bucks, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton counties. For more information, visit [Sen. Wonderling's website](#).

Quick Clips

Here's a selection of NewsClips on environmental topics from around the state...

[State Seeks Help to Clean Up Parks](#)
[Preparing to Do the Dirty Work – COALS Cleanup](#)
[Lawmakers Hope Session on Global Warming Will Increase Awareness](#)
[Population Boom: Lehigh Valley](#)
[Op-Ed: Committed to the Land](#)
[Milford Protects Another 21 Acres of Open Space](#)
[Union Twp. Begins Land Preservation Program](#)
[Federal Money to Help Preserve Oley Hills](#)
[Bucks Open Space Group Adds Fund to 10-Year Proposal](#)
[Montco, Trust Join to Preserve Land](#)
[New Plan Outlines Future of Allegheny National Forest](#)
[Students to Leave Evergreen Legacy](#)
[Energy Plans Look to Involve Students](#)
[Exploring Life on the Perkiomen Trail](#)
[Carbon Nature Center, Lehighon Library Get State Funds](#)
[Editorial: Supreme Court Sets Stage for Greenhouse Gas Policy](#)
[Editorial: Biofuels, Beware of Unintended Consequences](#)
[Corn Price Jump May Cause Ripple in Western PA](#)
[With Ethanol Boom, The Most Corn in 63 Years](#)
[Schuylkill Joining Race to Increase Use of Renewable Energy](#)
[Maureen Guttman Appointed to Governor's Green Government Council](#)
[Problems at Wind Farm Could Derail Acquisition](#)
[Wind Energy Costly But Environmentally Friendly](#)
[Public Comments Sought on Wind-Ordinance Changes](#)
[Pitt, CMU and WVU Study Ways to Make Coal Less Polluting](#)
[Power Transmission Line Drawing Protests](#)
[Allegheny Energy Announces Route of Interstate Power Line](#)
[Consumers Seem Slow to Turn On To Energy Efficient Lights](#)
[\\$2.2 Million Recycling Performance Grants Announced for Southeast](#)
[Chester County Adopts 10-Year Trash Control Plan](#)
[Businessman is Turning Hotel Table Scraps Into Compost](#)
[Editorial: Recycling – Still A Work In Progress](#)
[State Starts Online Registry for Preparedness Volunteers](#)
[Eyes Are Peeled for a Rare Bird](#)
[Eagles Soar After 7-Year Reintroduction Program in PA](#)

Watershed NewsClips

Read a sampling of NewsClips on watershed topics from around Pennsylvania.

[John Quimby – Sharing His Passion](#)
[Oil City Woman Receives Award From PA Rural Water Association](#)

[Collegian Wants to Restore Mahoning Creek](#)
[Conservationists Hope to Save Vernal Ponds](#)
[7 Million Gallons of Water Gone](#)
[Flood Control Fees Gain Support](#)
[Western PA Grants Aid Innovative Drainage Proposals](#)
[Unclogging an Artery – Conestoga River](#)
[Sewickley Creek Clean Up Day Set for April 20](#)
[A Healthier Watson Creek](#)
[Phipps Center to Grow Green Parking Lot Out of Recycled Plastic](#)
[Shocking Find in PA Trout Migration](#)
[Cool Start to Day Almost Chased Fish Away](#)
[Anglers Crowd Area Streams](#)
[First Day of Fishing Finds Few Takers](#)
[Trout Day Festivity Planned on Yellow Breeches](#)
[Fish and Boat Commissioner Speaks to Watershed Group](#)
[Across Great Lakes Region, Pact Faces Different Challenges](#)
[U.S. Senate Committee Action on Federal Water Resource Development Act](#)

Regulations

No new regulations published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 7, 2007](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations \(DEP website\)](#)

[Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar \(DEP website\)](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new policy guidance published this week.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- [DEP Announces No Cost Internet-Based Remediation Workshops](#)

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- **April 12** – House Consumer Affairs Committee informational meeting on water and wastewater utilities. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **April 12** – DCNR [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **April 13** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Listening Session on Issues Affecting Agriculture and Rural PA. The Lemon House, Allegheny Portage Railroad, 110 Federal Park Road, Gallitzin. 12:45
- **April 13-15:** [PA Assn. Environmental Educators “No Child Left Inside”](#) Conference. Wilkes-Baree.
- **April 16** – House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Federal & State Relations meets to consider [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to make more funds available for Low-Income Energy Assistance Programs. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 12:00.
- **April 16** - [Environmental Issues Forum](#), Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featuring Julia Marano, Keep PA Beautiful. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **April 17** – **CANCELLED**. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting is May 16.
- **April 26** – [Joint Conservation Committee](#) Forestry Task Force meeting. Celebration Hall by Hoags, 2280 Commercial Blvd., State College. 10:00.
- **April 27** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Listening Session. Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport. 10:00.
- **April 27-28:** West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium III. Genetti Hotel. Williamsport. Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or send email to: awolfe@tu.org .
Video Blog: [Amy Wolfe Talks About Restoring the West Branch](#).
- **May 14** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Listening Session. Mercer County Conservation District, 747 Greenville Road, Mercer. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#) (*courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#)*)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

(*courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#)*)

[Senate Committee Schedule](#) [House Committee Schedule](#)

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

Stories Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - DHess@CrisciAssociates.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

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